

Appl. No. 09/921,677

Amdt. Dated March 27, 2006

Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2006

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Office action mailed January 4, 2006. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 10-18 and 35 remain pending in this application, with Claims 10, 18, and 35 being the independent claims. No claims have been amended herein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10-14, 16, 17, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0126233 A1 (Bryers et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0126233 A1 (Vrange), and Claims 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bryers and Vrange, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,984,080 (Baker). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 10, 18, and 35 each relate to methods, or a computer-readable medium containing code that causes a computer to implement a method, of modifying an entry in a security association database in a system having a plurality of channels. The claimed methods each include retrieving a security association data structure from a predetermined address location, modifying the retrieved security association data structure, and writing the modified security association data structure to the predetermined address location in the security association database, and each of the independent claims recites, *inter alia*, requesting access to a predetermined address location in the security association database, assigning a weight value to the request based on a sequential order of the request relative to access requests to the predetermined address location made by other of the security channels. Moreover, each of the independent claims recites that the security association data structure is retrieved from the predetermined address location when, based on the weight value assigned to the request, the requesting channel has the highest priority.

Bryers et al. relates to a system and method for controlling a content services aggregator and discloses, at various portions of the disclosure, the known method of

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retrieving an SA data structure, modifying the SA data structure, and writing the modified SA data structure to the SAD. Indeed, Bryers et al. discloses what Applicants disclose in the background portion of the instant application. Although the Office action alleges that Bryers et al., in paragraphs [0178] – [0183], discloses assigning a weight value to a request based on a sequential order of the request relative to access requests to the same SAD address location made by other channels, this is simply not the case. Rather, what Bryers et al. discloses in these paragraphs is how their invention determines a set of distributed target bandwidths for a plurality of traffic classes, to thereby allow the content aggregator to provide bandwidth guarantees for the system as a whole. Traffic classes are predefined, and when packets arrive each is classified to determine in which traffic class it belongs. Thus, what Bryers et al. teaches in these paragraphs is a method of assignment of bandwidth to individual packet flows. This disclosed methodology has nothing to do with the relative sequential order of a request.

As regards Vrange, this reference relates to a method for serving web pages from multiple cooperating web servers, in a coordinated fashion. The Office action alleges that Vrange, in paragraphs [0037]-[0039], teaches prioritizing data traffic over a shared connection, including assigning a priority value to the request. However, what Vrange teaches is a method of assigning priority to clients, such that a client with a higher assigned priority will always get access over one with a lower priority. The disclosed method does not vary access to all clients. The priority is that is assigned to a client is not based on a sequential order of a request relative to that of other clients/channels.

It is thus clear that Bryers et al. and Vrange fail to disclose, or even remotely suggest, both individually and in combination, at least the above-noted feature of independent Claims 10, 18, and 35. Namely, these references fail to disclose or suggest at least assigning a weight value to the request based on a sequential order of the request relative to access requests to the predetermined address location made by other of the security channels.

As regards Baker, which was cited as allegedly teaching the step of determining whether a write buffer is busy, Applicants submit that this reference fails to make up for

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at least the above noted deficiencies of Bryers et al. and Thacker with respect to independent Claims 10, 18, and 35.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the § 103 rejections.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 10, 18, and 35 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also deemed to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

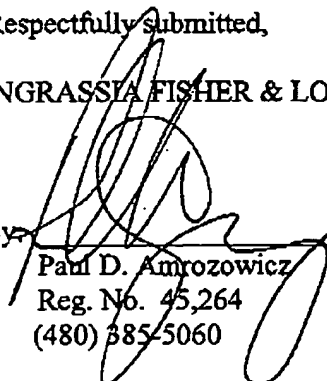
If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

Dated: March 27, 2006

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